CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A mobile phone set comprising:

a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit which transmits a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the set; and

a microprocessor coupled to the circuit and configured to activate the circuit only when there is no mobile phone service available and the mobile phone user requests emergency service.

2. (Currently amended) A phone set according to claim 1 further comprising a global positioning system receiver circuit coupled to the microprocessor, the microprocessor further configured to include location coordinates from the global positioning system receiver circuit with [[a]] the beacon transmitted by the personal locator circuit.

3. (Currently amended) A phone set according to claim 1 wherein the personal locator beacon circuit transmits [[a]] the beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

4. (Original) A phone set according to claim 3 wherein the personal locator beacon circuit also transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

5. (Original) A phone set according to claim 4 further comprising a microphone coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit such that the homing signal includes voice transmission.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A phone set according to claim 1 further comprising a short range transceiver coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and the microprocessor such that the ~~locator beacon circuit transmits a~~ beacon ~~that~~ includes emergency information received from the short range transceiver.

9. (Currently amended) A method of requesting emergency service on a mobile phone handset comprising the steps of:

determining if mobile service is available; and

~~activating a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit in the event that~~ if such service is unavailable, then transmitting, using a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit of the mobile phone handset, ~~which circuit transmits~~ a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the handset.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising obtaining global positioning system location coordinates, wherein the ~~transmitter circuit transmits a~~ beacon ~~that~~ includes said global positioning system location coordinates.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter circuit transmits [[a]] the beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter circuit transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein voice transmission is included with the homing signal.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising receiving ~~wherein the beacon signal includes~~ emergency information ~~received~~ from a short range transceiver located in the handset, wherein the beacon includes the received emergency information.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein:

the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and

the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.

18. (New) A phone set according to claim 8, wherein:

the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and

the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.